

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 EA-07 EB-08 /063 W  
-----071355Z 100041 /50

R 071130Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 535  
INFO USDAO CARACAS  
SECDEF  
CMDT COAST GUARD  
CNO  
SECTransPORTATION  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 0937

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TD, US, EAIR, EWWT  
SUBJECT: NEGOTIATION OF EXTENDED RIGHTS FOR  
OMEGA TRINIDAD

REF: 76 PORT OF SPAIN 2864 (021225Z NOV 76)

1. I RECOMMEND THAT, ON BASIS OF TENTATIVE USG DECISION  
TO SEEK EXTENSION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD BEYOND 1977, THIS  
EMBASSY PROMPTLY BE AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN PROCESS OF  
EXPLORATORY NEGOTIATION WITH GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO (GOTT). WE UNDERSTAND THAT FINAL USG  
DECISION IS STILL AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF RELATED  
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA. NEVERTHELESS,  
CONSIDERABLE TIME HAS ALREADY ELAPSED BEYOND OPTIMAL  
TIME FOR COMMENCING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOTT.  
GIVEN THE VERY SLOW PACE OF DECISION-MAKING WITHIN  
THE GOTT AND SOME OF THE INTANGIBLES ON BOTH SIDES,  
I FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE FORMALLY ENGAGE  
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OURSELVES IN THE DIALOGUE.

2. NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT COMMIT US TO A FINAL AGREEMENT.  
IN FACT, ONLY WHEN DISCUSSIONS ARE JOINED CAN WE TEST  
WHETHER OUR ASSESSMENTS OF THE GOTT POSITION  
ARE ACCURATE AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE GOTT ASKING  
PRICE IS REASONABLE IN RELATION TO USG PRIORITIES. THERE

WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO INCOMPATIBILITY IN NEGOTIATING SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TRINIDAD AND AUSTRALIA, AND INDEED SOME BENEFIT IN MAINTAINING FLEXIBILITY AT THIS STAGE WHILE IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF PROSPECTS AND OPTIONS. FINAL DECISION TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE A FURTHER STEP. WE SEE NO REAL PROBLEM LOCALLY IF DISCUSSIONS ARE SUBSEQUENTLY CONCLUDED WITH A DECISION NOT TO EXTEND OMEGA TRINIDAD, EITHER BECAUSE THE USG NO LONGER FOUND IT NECESSARY OR BECAUSE COMPATIBLE TERMS FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED.

2. OUR RECOMMENDATION OF AN SCENARIO REMAINS AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. WE WOULD INFORM THE GOTT OF OUR INTEREST IN POSSIBLE NEGOTIATION OF AN EXTENSION AND SEEK THE CONVENING OF A FORMAL MEETING BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND RELEVANT GOTT OFFICIALS HERE TO COMMENCE SUCH NEGOTIATIONS AND BEGIN TO EXPLORE EACH SIDE'S REQUIREMENTS AND POSITIONS.

3. WE ASSESS MINIMAL GOTT POSITION AS INCORPORATING:  
A) COMPLETE NEW AGREEMENT, NOT LINKED TO THE EXISTING MILITARY BASE AGREEMENT;  
B) SOME FORM OF COMPENSATION IN RETURN FOR LEASE AGREEMENT, EITHER AS LUMP SUM OR ANNUAL RENT; AND  
C) LIMITATION TO A MODEST NUMBER OF YEARS, ALTHOUGH ASSUME WE COULD GET AGREEMENT TO TERMS  
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FOR RENEWAL.

4. THESE THREE BASICS DO NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE NEGOTIABLE FOR THE GOTT, AND SINCE THEY ARE ALL PRESUMABLY EASY FOR USG TO ACCEDE TO (SUBJECT TO AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION), BELIEVE WE SHOULD ESSENTIALLY INDICATE OUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ALONG THESE LINES AT THE BEGINNING. WE WOULD HOPE TO SMOKE OUT SPECIFIC BARGAINING POSITION OF GOTT IN TERMS OF AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL COMPENSATION AND SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS. THESE WOULD GIVE US BETTER BASE FOR ASSESSMENT AND EXPLORATION OF NEGOTIATING TACTICS.

5. ON THE BASIS OF OUR HISTORIAL REVIEW OF EARLIER OMEGA DISCUSSIONS HERE AND ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT GOTT, WE SUGGEST ADDITIONAL QUIDS PRO QUO MAY BE SOUGHT BY GOTT ALONG LINES OF:

A) JOINT TRINIDADIAN MANAGEMENT OF THE

STATION;  
B) TRAINING OF TRINIDADIAN PERSONNEL; AND  
C) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF EXPATRIATE  
PERSONNEL.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 OMB-01 EA-07 EB-08 /063 W  
-----071354Z 100250 /50

R 071130Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 536  
INFO USDAO CARACAS  
SECDEF  
CMDT COAST GUARD  
CNO  
SECTRANSPORTATION  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 0937

6. PERHAPS NOT CONCRETELY EXPRESSED IN THE DISCUSSIONS  
TO BE HELD, BUT STRONGLY INFLUENCING THE GOTT STANCE,  
WILL BE THE PROSPECT OF OPPOSITION ATTACKS ON ANY  
AGREEMENT AS PROVISION OF A FACILITY LINKED TO US  
NUCLEAR SUBMARINE AND MISSILE COMMUNICATIONS OR  
NAVIGATION AND THUS TENDING TO MAKE TRINIDAD A  
MILITARY TARGET IN A GREAT POWER CONFRONTATION.  
THESE CHARGES CAN BE DEALT WITH BY US QUITE FORTH-  
RIGHTLY, BUT OUR HAND WILL BE STRENGTHENED EVEN  
FURTHER IF WE CAN POINT OUT THAT OMEGA COMES UNDER  
JURISDICTION OF DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION AND U.S.  
COASTGUARD AND NO LONGER US NAVY (IF THIS TRANSITION  
IS COMPLETE).

7. IN CONCLUSION, WE SEE MANY ADVANTAGES IN BEGINNING  
DISCUSSIONS/NEGOTIATION AND NO APPARENT DISADVANTAGES.  
IF AN AGREEMENT IS NOT SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED, OR  
WE DETERMINE IT IS NOT IN USG INTEREST TO CONCLUDE  
AN AGREEMENT, SEVERAL MONTHS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED  
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FOR OMEGA TRINIDAD TO CLOSE OUT AND RETURN THE SITE  
IN APPROPRIATE CONDITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO BY THE END OF CALENDAR 1977. AT BEST,  
WE ANTICIPATE SEVERAL MONTHS WILL BE REQUIRED  
PRIOR THERETO EITHER TO GET AN AGREEMENT OR REACH  
THE POINT WHERE AN AGREEMENT IS ABANDONED. IN MANY  
CAPITALS SUCH AN EXTENDED PERIOD WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.  
HERE IT IS MOST LIKELY. THEREFORE, LET US BEGIN.  
RICH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Reference:** 76 PORT OF SPAIN 2864  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEGOTIATION OF EXTENDED RIGHTS FOR OMEGA TRINIDAD  
**TAGS:** MARR, PFOR, EAIR, EWWT, TD, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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